

TRANSLATION PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 500.216	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/FR2004/002316	International filing date (day/month/year) 13.09.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 24.09.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65F1/00		
Applicant SPHERE		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>2</u> sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/002316

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 1-17 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- the claims:
 nos. 1-10, 11 (in part) as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
28.09.2005 with letter
 nos.* 11 (in part), 12-14 received by this Authority on of 26.09.2005
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- the drawings:
 sheets 1/3-3/3 as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.	PCT/FR2004/002316
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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-14</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-14</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-14</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. In the present report, reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP-A-1 013 567

2. D1, which is considered to be the most relevant prior art, describes a bag consisting of two surfaces mutually connected around their entire periphery except for one longitudinal edge; the bag has an opening leading into said longitudinal edge; the two surfaces of the bag are welded together along two opposite side seams; at least one surface is provided, in the vicinity of said opening, with at least one elastic band connected to said surface by two linking areas so that the useful length at rest of said elastic band between the two linking areas corresponds to the spacing between the two linking areas on the bag and is less than the length of the longitudinal edge of said surface of the bag.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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3. The problem that the present invention is intended to solve can be considered to be that of improving such a bag.

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)), because it is not found in the prior art and cannot be derived in an obvious manner therefrom.

4. The same argument applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the subject matter of the corresponding independent claims 11 and 14, which are therefore novel and inventive.
5. Claims 2 to 10, 12 and 13 are dependent on claims 1 and 11, respectively, and thus also comply, as such, with the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.